

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MARCH 22, 2007

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, March 22, 2007 at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:38 PM, by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley, with the following present:

Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair, Karen MacBeth, Clerk, Donald J. Costa, W. David Wagner, Earl T. Wood

Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Susan C. Carney, Ph.D, Assistant Superintendent; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration

Absent: Lisa Beaulieu

I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by committee members.

II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the agenda.

III. Chairperson's Report - The Chair noted Ms. Beaulieu had notified him that she would be absent. He asked speakers to be considerate of their fellow speakers and adhere to the five minute rule.

IV. Comments from the Public

A. Public Comments - None.

B. Student Government Report - None.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Personnel Committee - Mr. Thibodeau Reported they tabled the principal's job description.

B. Finance Committee

1. Payment of Invoices - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE payment of invoices in the amount of \$986,022.08. Ms. MacBeth expressed concern for out of district tuition and requested a breakdown of students and the out of district placement through March 1st for the next financial committee meeting.

2. Curriculum Committee - Mr. Costa reported in Ms. Beaulieu's absence the subcommittee met on the 18th on Keywords. They are recommending a workshop to establish board goals 2) review of the vision and self-assessment 3) recommend reviewing school committee agendas from other communities for structure and review the structure of meetings.

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The committee also reviewed new courses and recommend approval

of 1) Statistics and Applications (General), Level 4, ½ credit, part-time; 2) Advanced Topics in Mathematics (Honors), Level 2, ½ or 1 credit, part time; 3) Graphic Design (General), Level 4, ½ credit, part time; 4) Three Dimensional Design (General), Level 4, ½ credit, part time. The courses would be offered based on enrollment of a minimum of 15 students. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the four new courses of study for the 2007-2008 school year. It was noted the courses are budgeted; the math department had proposed the math courses and the graphic design courses would be through the art department.

3. Bids - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the contract with CompuClaim. This is a two year contract with the option to extend to 2010. Mr. Thibodeau noted that Mr. Prignano had negotiated the contract with a \$38,000 savings.

C. Wellness Committee - Mr. Costa reported meeting Tuesday and the annual report for the physical activity policy has to be submitted by the first meeting of April. They are going over some of the requirements with the PE teachers.

D. Rules & Regulations Committee - Mr. Costa reported they are still gathering information from the bus company.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Personnel Recommendations - The Superintendent presented the following:

1. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the appointment of Anne

Gorman, School Psychologist, as a system wide position effective 3/23/2007 (FTE: 1.0, Step: 12, Advanced Lane: CAGS, Copay: 10%, budgeted). Mr. Wagner provided a second. The Superintendent explained this will fill a vacancy since the first quarter and while there were other candidates at a lower step, they weren't of a desirable caliber. Ms. Moore reported they would be fully staffed with four full-time and one part-time school psychologist. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-1 TO APPROVE the motion, with Ms. MacBeth voting against.

2. Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the resignation of Janelle Erskine, Girls' Outdoor Track Assistant Coach at Cumberland High School, effective 3/7/2007. Mr. Wagner provided a second. Ms. MacBeth asked if Ms. Erskine could stay on until another assistant was in place. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-1 TO APPROVE the motion, with Ms. MacBeth voting against.

3. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood and Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the appointment of James Dawber, Boys' Freshman Baseball Coach at Cumberland High School for the 2006-2007 school year, effective 3/23/2007 (budgeted) and the appointment of Brian Vetri, Boys' Junior Varsity Baseball Coach at Cumberland High School for the 2006-2007 school year, effective 3/23/2007 (budgeted).

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VII. Old Business

A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported the CHS2010 Building Committee met and Dimeo is reviewing the scope with bidders and will be back with numbers at the next meeting on April 2nd. The 3.5 Building Committee will be meeting on the 28th. The bid period started March 14th and the walk through will be on the 28th. Ms. MacBeth asked if the committee will be coming forward for more money in the future and if the plans include a full day kindergarten, noting scores have gone up where there was a full day kindergarten. Mr. Wood explained there was a plan put together every year on capital improvements that goes to the town council and it includes an early learning center. That has been in the plan the last four years, but the 3.5 committee will not be seeking funds for that. The Superintendent commented that was tied to the conversation of Cumberland Hill and the Ashton project and the kindergarten students that are at Community. She noted the master plan has called for building an early learning center and that goes back to the early education advisory board.

VIII. New Business

A. RI Department of Health Presentation: Youth Health Risk Behaviors Survey - The Superintendent reported Cumberland High School has been invited to take part in a RI Youth Risk Behavior survey through the RI Department of Health and introduced Donald Perry from the Department of Health. He explained the survey procedure and the fact that both students and parents have the right

to opt out of the survey. Mr. Wood noted the recent workshop and students' concern with smoking. Mr. Perry stated the school department gets a copy of a summary report.

B. Job Share Policy Revision - Mr. Costa reported the Rules & Regulations subcommittee will be re-writing the policy on job sharing and should have a rough draft for the full committee at an April meeting. He noted the current policy is for the elementary level and did not include the high school. The Superintendent commented that a minor adjustment could make this equitable for all employees.

C. Cumberland High School Course of Studies - The Superintendent noted the four courses had been presented to the Curriculum Standing Committee and she thanked Dr. Carney for her work.

IX. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent reported a number of teachers will be attending a professional development activity as part of the Learning for All program. They will be bringing back information to their schools. She hopes to add another elementary school to take this to the next level in the district.

X. Comments from the Public - None.

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XI. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Wood reported Sunday the 25th will be laser tag for boys. The 31st will be clean up day at JJM Cumberland Hill with planting later in the spring. Math night will be April 4th. This Saturday is the Freshman Frolic at the High School. Ms. MacBeth reported she met Tuesday with the Special Ed Advisory Committee and the Special Education Director. They will be holding a meeting on graduation by proficiency to let parents of 8th graders and high school students know what that means for their children. She inquired about putting it on the sign on Mendon Road. Mr. Costa reported he had the honor of reading to Ms. Smith's class for Read Across America and he has received letters from the students. Mr. Thibodeau reported the 24th is the RI Destination Imagination Tournament. The Father/Daughter dance for Community School will be on the 30th. He noted the new copy machines were well received.

XII. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5

A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)

1. CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)

1. CTA/ICSE

2. Central Administrators' Contracts

3. Non-Contractual Salaries

4. Potential Litigation

Mr. Wagner made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr.

Thibodeau provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the motion. Open Session recessed at 8:35 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 9:13 p.m. without Mr. Costa. On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.

XIII. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE adjourning Open Session at 9:14 p.m., without Mr. Costa.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Subject to School Committee approval